

Claim 59 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,259,288 to Vatsvog. Claims 62 and 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vatsvog. Claims 60-61 and 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and being unpatentable over Vatsvog in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,745,924 to Scanlon. Claims 65-77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vatsvog in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,144,827 to Boutwell.

Claim 59, from which Claims 60-77 depend, defines a method of making an ammunition article, comprising the steps of molding plastic around at least a portion of a projectile to form a plastic cartridge casing body having a first end to which the projectile is attached and a second end.

The primary reference in all of the prior art rejections, Vatsvog, only discloses that a bullet 10 is *inserted* into the forward end of a plastic casing 12. See column 5, lines 63-65. Vatsvog discloses nothing about molding plastic around a portion of the projectile to form a plastic cartridge casing body having a first end to which the projectile is attached and a second end, as recited in Claim 59.

In view of the differences between Claim 59 and Vatsvog, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 59 and the claims dependent therefrom, Claims 60-77, are not anticipated by Vatsvog. There is, in addition, no disclosure or suggestion of the steps of Claim 59 and Vatsvog, and it is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of Vatsvog to preform the claimed method. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 59 and the claims dependent therefrom, define patentably over Vatsvog.

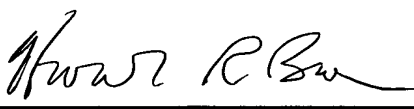
With respect to the secondary references, Scanlon and Boutwell, also do not disclose or suggest the method of Claim 59 and, for at least that reason, all of Claims 59 and the claims dependent therefrom, Claims 60-77, define patentably over a combination of Vatsvog and Scanlon or Boutwell. Scanlon, for example discloses that a projectile 18 is secured by a force fit in a mouth portion of a front end 16 of a body portion 14 of a plastic casing 12. *See* column 2, lines 48-51. Boutwell only discloses a blank cartridge.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims presently under consideration, Claims 59-77, are in condition for allowance. Allowance is cordially urged.

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 

Harold R. Brown III  
Registration No. 36,341

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620

Date: Jan. 8, 2002